Growing Vocabulary from the “ROOTS” Up!
A Pilot for L.W.B.E 2014

26 Posters of the 30 Most Common Roots with Kinesthetic Motions!
Most IMAGES Drawn by Students!

By Belinda Wells
meaning: star

symbolic motion - "starburst"
make a fist with both hands about the head, and then pop fingers open.
phon or aud

Greek
Latin

Meaning: to hear or listen
Symbolic Motion - Make a cup around one ear with your hand.
Meaning: self

Symbolic Motion -
Make an outline of your head and shoulders
to show “self.”
bene or bon

Meaning: good

Symbolic Motion - Make a “thumbs-up” sign.

Latin
bio

Greek

Meaning: life

Symbolic Motion - “Hand with flowering fingers”
Bend one arm at the elbow. Place elbow in the palm of your free hand and raise it slowly while opening fingers like a flower growing to symbolize a living plant.
chrono

Greek

Meaning: time

Symbolic Motion - “Sunrise/Sunset Arm”

Place an elbow in the palm of your free hand, and then move the arm in an arcing motion symbolizing the passing of time.
dict

Latin

Meaning: to say or speech

Symbolic Motion - “finger leaving mouth”
Place your index finger under lower lip and move it away from your face.
duc, duce, or duct

Meaning: to lead

Symbolic Motion - Pretend to conduct a band or orchestra. Use your index finger as a baton.
**gene**

**Greek**

Meaning: birth or kind

Symbolic Motion – “egg crack”

Make an oval (egg) shape with both of your hands. Keep your thumbs together and “crack” open your fingers to give birth to a chick!

*Some sources say “gen” is a Latin root.*
geo, terr, or terra

Greek
Latin

Meaning: earth

Symbolic Motion – “orbit”
Raise one hand above your head and make an orbiting motion like the “earth” moves around the sun.
graph, scrib, or script

Greek
Latin

Meaning: to write

Symbolic Motion - Use your pointer finger to pretend to write on your opposite palm.
Latin

jur, jus, or jud

Meaning: law

Symbolic Motion: Use your fist to pound like a hammer or “judge’s gavel” on your palm.
Meaning: water
Symbolic Motion – Make a wave motion with your pointer finger.
log or logue

Greek

Meaning: thought

Symbolic Motion – Point to your brain.
Latin

luc, lum, or lus

Meaning: light

Symbolic Motion - Place one hand behind your head and spread fingers to symbolize light rays.
man(u)  Latin

Meaning: hand or by the hand

Symbolic Motion - Place an opened hand in front of you.
mand
or mend

Latin

Meaning: order

Symbolic Motion - Use fingers to count 1, 2, 3 as if putting in sequential order.
mis
or mit

Latin

Meaning: to send
Symbolic Motion - Point index finger and send or push away from your body.
peri
or omni

Greek
Latin

Meaning: all

Symbolic Motion - Move index finger in a circular motion in front of you.
Greek
Latin

Meaning: to feel

Symbolic Motion - Place your hands in a prayer or clapping position. Rub them together to show a gentle feeling.
Meaning: love

Symbolic Motion - Curve fingers into the shape of the letter “m” and touch thumbs together to make a heart.
port

Latin

Meaning: to carry

Symbolic Motion - Place both palms up in a cupped shape as if they were carrying something.
qui(t)  Latin

Meaning: quiet or rest

Symbolic Motion - Place a finger to lips in a “sh-h” motion.
tele

Greek

Meaning: far away or distant

Symbolic Motion - Place one straight hand perpendicular to your eyebrow (like a salute) as if looking far way.
**Latin**

**Meaning:** to empty

**Symbolic Motion** - Start with your palm up and turn over as if to empty what was in your hand.
vis or vid

Meaning: to see

Symbolic Motion - Position both hands into circles and place over eyes like eyeglasses or binoculars.
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